Impersonation of IT officials to get PAN from BSNL employees

2892. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some firms/agents are impersonating as Income Tax Officers to get Permanent Account Number of BSNL employees in Bangalore if so the details thereof;

(b) the number of BSNL employees who were forced to give their Permanent Account Number; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Employees of a firm named M/s Solitaire Business Services, having its office premises at No. 408/ 409, B Wing Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-1 were impersonating as officials of the income Tax Department to get Permanent Account Number (PAN) of BSNL employees in Bangalore.

(b) 159 employees of BSNL were forced to give their Permanent Account Number.

(c) The Income Tax Department has taken several steps in this regard. On 12.7.2005 a survey u/s 133A of the Income Tax Act 1961 was conducted on the business premises of M/s Solitaire Business Services and statements of partners/employees of the firm were recorded. On the same date an FIR with the Police Authorities was filed against the firm for impersonation and misuse of the name of Income - Tax Department. BSNL employees have been cautioned against giving their PAN over telephone. Publicity in local newspapers have been made cautioning the general public against divulging PAN related information to tele-callers or any other such agency/firm

Amount sanctioned for National Social Assistance Programme to Madhya Pradesh

f2893. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the amount of Rs. 8813.32 lakhs to Madhya Pradesh for National Social Assistance Programme for the year 2005-06; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when the said amount will be released to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The combined allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and the Annapurna Scheme to Madhya Pradesh for the year 2005-06 is Rs. 7649.45 lakhs.

(b) As per guidelines the releases of ACA to the States will be made automatically by the Ministry of Finance in equal instalments on a monthly basis until December of the financial year. However, the release of ACA for the last quarter of the financial year i.e. for the three months of January, February and March, would depend upon the reporting of satisfactory progress of implementation of the schemes and utilization of funds by the States. As per information available with the Ministry of Rural Development, so far an amount of Rs. 1912.36 lakhs has been released to Madhya Pradesh by the Ministry of Finance during 2005-06.

Implementation of Panchayati Act

2894. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to implement the provision of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled) Act, 1996;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be implemented and to what extent the tribals will be benefited; and

(c) to what extent the Act will help to check naxalites activities in tribal dominated areas?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 is being implemented in the States incorporating Schedule V areas. Details are provided in the Statement enclosed (See Below). The objective of PESA is to enable tribal communities in Schedule V areas to assert their identity, control local natural resources, and exercise self-Government through participation , in Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(c) Although the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 have been incorporated in State Panchayati Raj Acts, lacunae in implementation are in evidence. The implementation of PESA in letter and spirit will without doubt contribute to containing the menace of naxalism in Scheduled V areas.